

Message Text

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14765

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJ: PRAVDA ACCUSES CHINA OF "HEATING-UP" BORDER SITUATION

REF: HONG KONG 11627

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA ON OCTOBER 15 CARRIES A SIGNED COMMENTARY ACCUSING CHINA OF "HEATING-UP THE SITUATION" ALONG ITS BORDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION THROUGH "REPRESSION" OF NATIONAL MINORITIES AND "RAVINGS" ABOUT "SUDDEN ATTACKS BY THE SOVIET UNION." THE COMMENTARY IS CLEARLY MOSCOW' REPLY TO RECENT CELEBRATIONS IN URUMCHI WHICH, AS REPORTED REFTEL, MADE ANTI-SOVIET NOISES. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE COMMENTARY, BY MIKHAIL GRIGORIYEV, CONTENDS THAT

IN "RECENT WEEKS" THE PRC HAS UNLEASHED A "NEW PROVOCATIVE CAMPAIGN" IN THENATIONAL MINORITY AREAS BASED ON TWO MAIN THEMES. THE FIRST, GRIGORIYEV CONTENTS, QUOTING FROM A SPEECH IN URUMCHI BY CHEN HSI-LIEN, IS TO "DEAL DECISION BLOWS TO THE HANDFUL OF CLASS ENEMIES"; GRIGORIYEV INTERPRETS THIS TO BE "ENEMIES OF THE MAOIST REGIME," WHICH HE ARGUES IS NOT A SMALL GROUP AT ALL, BUT RATHER INCLUDES ALL NATIONAL MINORITIES, SECONDLY, GRIGORIYEV CONTINUES, CHEN ALSO CALLED UPON THE PEOPLE OF SINKIANG TO "DIG DEEP TUNNELS, STORE GRAIN,AND PREPARE FOR WAR," AND, IN GRIGORIYEV'S PARAPHRASE, "TURN THE NATIONAL MINORITY AREAS INTO ADVANCE POSTS IN A SYSTEM OF DEFENSE" AND EVEN "PREPARE FOR ALLEGED SUDDEN ATTACKS FROM THE SOVIET UNION."

3. GRIGORIYEV SAYS THAT SUCH "RAVINGS" SERVE MAOIST INTERESTS BY COVERING THEIR "PERFIDIOUS GREAT-HAN PLANS" REGARDING THE NATIONAL MINORITIES AND AT THE SAME TIME BY FORCING THESE MINORITIES TO BECOME CO-PARTICIPANTS IN THE MAOIST ANTI-SOVIET POLICIES.

4. GROGROIYEV, WHILE RELATING THE HISTORY OF "GREAT-HAN REPRESSION" OF MINORITIES, ALSO MAKES THE POINT THAT DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION "PRESECUTION FOR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS" BEGAN ALONG THE SOVIET-CHINESE BORDER. AT THE SAME TIME TROOPS WERE MOVED INTO THE AREA, AND NOW "TENS OF DIVISIONS ARE QUARTERED IN INNER MONOGLIA, SINKIANG, AND TIBET." HE CONCLUDES DARKLY THAT NEW CAMPAIGN "PURSUES VERY DEFINITE ANTI-PEOPLE GOALS" WHICH CANNOT BE DISGUISED BY "PROPAGANDISTIC CONTRIVANCES."

5. COMMENT. THE COMMENTARY IS CLEARLY MOSCOW'S ANSWER TO THE OCTOBER 1 CELEBRATION OF THE SINKIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC 20TH ANNIVERSARY, DESCRIBED IN REFTEL AS HAVING HAD A "GENERALLY ANTI-SOVIET THEME." GRIGORIYEV'S PASSING REMARKS ON "PERSECUTION FOR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS" SEEMINGLY BOLSTERS SPECULATION IN REFETEL THAT SOME RELIGIOUS ISSUE IS CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR PEKING IN SINKIANG. WE DID NOT HAVE IMPRESSION FROM REFTEL, HOWEVER, THE CHEN HSI-LIEN'S TATEMENTS WERE AS "WAR-CONFIDENTIAL

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MONGERING" AS GRIGORIYEV'S ARTICLE PORTRAYS THEM, BUT DO NOT KNOW WHETHER CHEN REALLY MADE SUCH STATEMENTS OR WHETHER GRIGORIYEV IS PUTTING WORDS IN HIS MOUTH.

6. THE COMMENTARY IN ANY CASE REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A CHANGE IN FOCUS OF SOVIET CRITICISM OF CHINA, MOST OF WHICH IN PAST MONTHS HAS BEEN AIMED AT PEKING'S ALLEGED DRIVE FOR INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE COMMENTARY,

THROUGH ITS REPORT THAT "TENS OF DIVISIONS" ARE STATIONED
ON THE BORDER AND ITS CLEAR MESSAGE THAT THE CHINESE
LEADERSHIP IS GIVEN TO "RAVINGS," IMPLIES THAT CHINA
CONSTITUTES A GENUINE PHYSICAL THREAT TO THE SOVIET
UNION. THAT IDEA IS NOT A NEW ONE IN SOVIET COMMENTARY,
BUT ITS REAPPEARANCE IN THIS ARTICLE IS AS VIVID AS WE
HAVE SEEN FOR SOME TIME. STOESSEL

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